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The health of school children.—The experiences of the war have stimulated a wide interest in the physical well-being of the school child, and, as a result of this interest, the literature relating to this subject has been greatly increased. A book¹ which comes from an English writer, Dr. Joseph Cates, has for its purpose the emphasis of the importance of healthful environment for the welfare of the child.

The book discusses in brief and non-technical form the principal causes of physical deficiency and the methods of removing them. It also contains chapters dealing with crippled and mentally abnormal children. Following the discussion of the child it takes up the school environment and describes standard equipment both for regular school buildings and for special schools and school camps. A chapter entitled the "School Annexe" gives an interesting discussion of needed facilities for play and recreation as well as the equipment for the canteen, the school bath, and the clinic. The book furnishes a brief general survey of the problems relating to the physical welfare of the school child.

Dictionary of synonyms.—One of the needs of every school library and, in fact, of every classroom is a complete, authentic, and modern dictionary of synonyms and antonyms. The developments and changes in the English language require a revision or an entirely new treatment of this subject from time to time. Teachers of English and school workers in general will therefore welcome a new volume² of this kind by F. Sturges Allen, the general editor of *Webster's New International Dictionary*.

The author has constructed a complete and original dictionary of synonyms, laying emphasis upon words of literary and technical value, but omitting phrases which would swell the book to undue size. His method of preparing the manuscript was to make a detailed analysis of the 15,000 pages of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, collecting approximately 300,000 memoranda of words. These memoranda, which form the basis of the work, have been collated and organized in a very effective manner. The method of cross-references used, the fullness of references to antonyms, the parenthetical comments which accompany thousands of words, as well as the elaborate care which has been exercised throughout have combined to produce a most excellent dictionary. The book will be of lasting value and should find a place in every school library.

New series of spelling textbooks.—During the last decade the application of scientific analysis to the course of study in spelling has produced a marked change in the character of spelling textbooks. The content of the later books

¹ JOSEPH CATES, *The Welfare of the School Child*. New York: Funk & Wagnalls Co., 1920. Pp. xi+154.

² F. STURGES ALLEN, *Allen's Synonyms and Antonyms*. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1920. Pp. xv+482. \$3.00.